

sure they have them. The controversies over the construction doesn't change the need.

As the drug traffickers move further out into the ocean, they have to have the ability to stay at sea longer. They can't keep running back into port because that's when the drug dealers, and if you can smuggle this much drugs, you can smuggle anthrax, you can smuggle nuclear parts, you can smuggle anything. Contraband is contraband.

If we aren't out there with a physical presence, if we don't have boats that are fast enough, if we don't have helicopters that can come off, if we can't surround or disable, we're not going to be able to intercept narcotics or other terrorists.

□ 1515

I want to commend Commandant Allen, who also basically bailed us out in Katrina, because the Coast Guard has served such an important function in so many areas there is not enough we can do to thank the men and women of the Coast Guard for their bravery, for their ability to do multitasking. And it's very important for this Congress to honor them and to make sure they have adequate funding.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 866, which recognizes the brave men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard for their tireless work and dedication in guarding our coasts and securing our borders since 1790. I thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), a former Coastguardsman, for introducing this resolution.

Last year was particularly noteworthy for the Coast Guard's drug interdiction efforts. In 2007, the Coast Guard seized more than 350,000 pounds of cocaine, far surpassing all previous Coast Guard records. This seizure had a street value of over \$4.7 billion, which equates to almost 50 percent of the Coast Guard's budget.

Throughout its history, the Coast Guard has protected the nation from piracy, rum runners, and illegal drug and migrant smugglers. The Coast Guard's first documented opium seizure was in 1890, by the Revenue Cutter *Wolcott*. In 1921, the Coast Guard Cutter *Seneca* seized 1,500 cases of liquor from a rum running schooner off the coast of New Jersey.

Due to the Coast Guard's aggressive drug interdiction pursuits, the supply of cocaine has been greatly reduced in more than 35 major U.S. cities. This has made a significant difference in the lives of American citizens.

The Coast Guard has established interagency and international partnerships which have contributed to its success. The United States negotiated bilateral agreements with 26 Caribbean and South American nations to allow the Coast Guard to stop illegal smuggling and conduct operations far outside the United States territorial seas.

Through these partnerships and more effective tools and tactics, the Coast Guard seized 2 million pounds of cocaine in the past 10 years. In March 2007, the Coast Guard made its largest maritime cocaine seizure in history when it intercepted and seized a Panamanian vessel carrying approximately 20 tons of the dangerous narcotic.

I commend the brave men and women of the Coast Guard for their selfless service and dedication to Nation and the American people. They work tirelessly to fulfill the numerous missions of the service, from search and rescue and environmental protection to maritime law enforcement and homeland security. We can live each day in solace knowing that the Coast Guard is on watch.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in strongly supporting H. Res. 866.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 866, introduced by my distinguished colleague from North Carolina, Representative COBLE, honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records. This bipartisan legislation honors the Coast Guard's important 217-year legacy of protecting American borders and enforcing the laws of the sea.

The maritime safety laws of this country were written in understanding and appreciation of the peril which mariners face when they get on a ship, go out to sea, whether on the salt-water or the fourth coastline of this country, the Great Lakes.

Americans put their trust every day in the Coast Guard to regulate safety on ferry boats and other types of vessels conveying passengers, or on liquefied natural gas tankers that come into our ports. We have to ensure that the Coast Guard will get their full funding needed to carry out those responsibilities.

The United States Coast Guard is the smallest of the seven uniformed services of the United States. Their mission is to protect the public, environment, and the economic and security interest of the United States' coasts, ports, and inland waterways. During the Coast Guard's 217-year legacy of border protection and maritime law enforcement, modern technologies have made their job more perilous. This, however, has not deterred our Nation's brave young men and women from conducting the dangerous duty of drug interdiction.

In 2007, the Coast Guard seized more than 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea. The street value of this seizure is worth over an estimated \$4.7 billion. The sum is nearly one-half of the Coast Guard's annual budget.

The Coast Guard's at-sea drug seizures have reduced the supply of cocaine in more than 35 major cities across the United States, consequently making a positive difference in our American communities. This important legislation recognizes the overwhelming contributions of the Coast Guard to the American community. It furthermore applauds the Coast Guard for their commitment to participating as part of a robust interagency team and international partners that has contributed to the seizure over 2 million pounds of cocaine in the past 10 years.

I commend the men and women of the Coast Guard, who spend countless hours at sea away from their families while they unrelentingly work to execute their service's mission. I acknowledge the commitment and selfless service required to protect our Nation and the American people done by Coast Guard men and women without want of public recognition.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and, in so

doing, giving our men and women in uniform the respect and recognition they deserve.

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DeFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 866.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3120

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my cosponsorship of the bill, H.R. 3120, be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE ACT

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3432) to establish the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 15, strike lines 3 through 5.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise as the sponsor of H.R. 3432 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Chairman LANTOS and Ranking Member ROSELEHTINEN for their leadership on this legislation. I would also like to thank